



# THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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Adopted 21 September 2019

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL**

1 June 2019

Kingston Parish Hall

3949 Route 845, Kingston, NB

### 1. **Pre-meeting circulation**

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes (February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019)
- Attendance Chart
- Letter of Resignation from the Chair of the Diocesan Nominating Committee
- Letters of Appreciation from Trinity Church
- Greater Chapter Missional Action Reports
- Team, Standing, and Other Committee Reports
- Anglican Foundation Loan Application and Summary (Parish of Nerepis and St. John)
- Additional Information – Anglican Foundation Loan Application (via email, May 31st)

### 2. **Participants**

Attending: Kathy Asch, David Barrett, David Bell, Roderick Black, Sandra Craft, David Edwards, Geoffrey Hall, Brent Ham, Heather Harris-Jones, Chris Hayes, Lionel Hayter, Cathy Laskey, Siobhan Laskey, Bob LeBlanc, Coralie Losier, Rob Marsh, Keith Osborne, Ted Quann, Paul Ranson, William Ross, Joanna Saunders, Thomas Stradwick, and Cheryl Young

Regrets: Gilbert Carter, Linda Fury, Susan Jack, Rosemarie Kingston (guest), Mary Anne Langmaid, Sandy MacPherson, John Matheson, David Peer (guest), Wandlyn Snelgrove, and Robert Taylor

Absent: Dylan Nicoll

Guests Attending: Shawn Branch, Gisele McKnight, and Walter Williams

### 3. **Eucharist**

4. The Bishop presided at the opening Eucharist. In his meditation, the Bishop reflected on Luke 24:44-53 and our role, as the Body of Christ, to be image bearers of Christ in the world, both individually and corporately.

5. **Call to Order**

6. Following a short break, Bishop David called the meeting to order at **1055**. He observed that a quorum was present and noted the regrets of **8** council members and **2** guests.
7. The Bishop requested a motion for the appointment of a recording secretary for the meeting.

*MOTION 1: Kathy Asch / Thomas Stradwick*

***That William Ross be appointed Recording Secretary for this meeting.***

*MOTION 1: Carried.*

8. The Bishop introduced the Agenda for the meeting and requested a motion for its approval.

*MOTION 2: Bob LeBlanc / Ted Quann*

***That the agenda be approved as circulated.***

*MOTION 2: Carried.*

9. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

10. Diocesan Council reviewed the minutes of the last Diocesan Council meeting and noted two minor adjustments relating to the attending participants list: Edward Quann should be changed to Ted Quann, and Linda Fury's name should appear only in the absent list.

*MOTION 3: Thomas Stradwick / Chris Hayes*

***That the minutes of the February 23rd, 2019 meeting of Diocesan Council be adopted as amended.***

*MOTION 3: Carried*

11. **Business Arising**

12. **Deep Roots.** Shawn Branch discussed the upcoming Diocesan "Deep Roots" gathering, reporting that the full \$10,000 grant from the Anglican Foundation was approved, with best wishes from the Foundation; that there were over 100 attendees registered to date; and that bursaries were available to help supplement registration fees. Rob Marsh shared that the Diocesan insurance company was issuing a sponsorship for the event, covering the cost of Michael Frost's second book for those attending the gathering.
13. **Infrastructure Needs.** Heather Harris-Jones spoke for the Finance Committee in reference to motion 14 from the previous Diocesan Council meeting, regarding the need for a process on how financial requests for infrastructure needs should be received and considered. The update was that a subcommittee will explore this further later in June, with more details to follow at the next meeting of Diocesan Council.

**14. New Business**

**15. Correspondence.** Three letters were read to the Diocesan Council. The first was from the Rev. Ann Fairweather, submitting her resignation as chair of the Diocesan Nominating Committee. The Bishop requested that a letter of thanks be sent from the Council in recognition for her dedication and long service. The two others were letters of gratitude from Derek Oland and the Rev. Steven Scribner, the Incumbent of Trinity Church, for the contribution approved by Diocesan Council toward the Trinity Steeple Restoration Project.

**16. Appointments.** Diocesan Council considered four routine appointments.

*MOTION 4: Bob LeBlanc / Paul Ranson*

***That David Peer be appointed to the office of the Secretary of the Synod as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.***

*MOTION 4: Carried*

*MOTION 5: David Bell / Coralie Losier*

***That Robert Taylor be appointed Chair of the Nominations Committee.***

*MOTION 5: Carried*

*MOTION 6: Brent Ham / Paul Ranson*

***That John Galbraith be appointed a member of the Youth and Intergenerational Ministries Team.***

*MOTION 6: Carried*

*MOTION 7: Ted Quann / Chris Hayes*

***That Eric Beek be appointed as the Diocese of Fredericton General Synod Youth Delegate to fill a vacancy.***

*MOTION 7: Carried*

**17. Faith Formation**

**18.** Shawn Branch led the Faith Formation session, which focused on cultivating a “culture of equipping.” Members were asked to consider what the Church would look like if it were to help people identify their God-given gifts and put them into practice. Drawing parallels with a sports team, Shawn highlighted that we need not only coaches and trainers, but also players willing to do more than sit on the bench. Members broke into teams to consider ways in which we can better cultivate future leaders.

**19. Greater Chapter Missional Action reports**

**20.** The Bishop requested a motion to receive the reports from the archdeaconries. The reports respond to Synod 2017 motion 136-06 part d.

*MOTION 8: Keith Osborne / Thomas Stradwick*

***That the Greater Chapter Missional Action reports be received.***

*MOTION 8: Carried*

**21. Committee and Team Reports**

22. The Bishop requested a motion to receive the Committee and Team reports contained in the Diocesan Council information package.

*MOTION 9: Rob Marsh / Ted Quann*

***That the committee and team reports be received.***

*MOTION 9: Carried*

23. **Constitution and Canons.** David Bell reviewed the proposed amendment to the regulation on Regional Governance (see page 19 of the meeting package). The minor change regularizes a situation already existing, where one Regional Dean is a deacon, not a priest.

*MOTION 10: David Bell / Cathy Laskey*

***That subsection 1(1) of Part 5 of Regulation 4-1 (Regional Governance) be amended by replacing the word "priest" with "cleric".***

*MOTION 10: Carried*

24. **Finance Committee.** Heather Harris-Jones presented the treasurer report, where she highlighted certain line items in the April 30, 2019 Draft Financial Statements, as well as the Shared Ministry Receipts and Employment Assessments, as found on pages 20 to 30 and page 34 of the meeting package. Overall the financials are looking good, with a positive variance and no concerns at this time to revise the forecast. However, there is a need to continue to find savings to meet targeted reductions. The 2018 year-end review will be ready to be received at the next meeting of Diocesan Council.
25. It was remarked that the notes in the financial statements were particularly helpful in adding context to the numbers. There was also some discussion around the topic of selling rectories and whether the Finance Committee should be proactive in anticipating potential future issues relating to the sale of rectories.

**26. Lunch Break**

27. The Bishop offered grace for the meal and suspended the meeting for lunch. At **1301**, the Bishop called the meeting back to order. Thomas Stradwick thanked our hosts for the meal.

**28. Committee and Team Reports (continued)**

29. **Human Resources Committee 'Live'.** Bishop David welcomed Walter Williams, the Chair of the Human Resources Committee. Walter reviewed briefly the mandate of the Human Resources Committee before discussing some of the current items they are working on, as summarized on pages 35 and 36 of the meeting package. These items

include the possibility of lay benefits after retirement, the creation of a Safe Church accusation form, and the ongoing review of the Substance Management policy draft. There was also some discussion around insured persons providing feedback on the current benefit plans. It was noted that any feedback should be directed to Ben Bourque.

Encouragement was also given to have a lens on clergy housing and to be proactive with the reality that not all clergy have resources available to purchase a home when a rectory isn't provided. This will impact who is able to respond to a call to serve in certain parishes. What can the diocese do to ameliorate the situation? HR Committee to follow-up.

30. **Anglican Foundation Loan Application for Corporation of the Anglican Parish of the Nerepis and St. John.** Bishop David welcomed Anna Caines and Jamie Morell to speak on behalf of the parish for the requested Anglican Foundation Loan Application (see pages 31 to 33 of the meeting package and the email sent May 31st, 2019). They presented a vision for a community play park, "The Play Park Project"; and discussed the need for such an indoor park in the community, how operational costs would be covered, and the current financial state and debt repayment plan of the parish. Diocesan council members raised questions concerning changing standards in playground equipment, increases in liability insurance, and whether any thought had been given to accessibility. These questions were all addressed, and the Bishop thanked the presenters, who left before council deliberated.

*MOTION 11: David Barrett / Siobhan Laskey*

***That the consideration of the Anglican Foundation Loan Application request be conducted in camera.***

*MOTION 11: Carried*

*MOTION 12: David Bell / David Barrett*

***That Diocesan Council return from in camera.***

*MOTION 12: Carried*

*MOTION 13:*

***That the Anglican Foundation Loan Application from the Corporation of the Anglican Parish of the Nerepis and St. John be approved as per future recommendation by the Property Committee and subsequent final approval of the documentation by the Finance Committee.***

*MOTION 13: Carried, 3 opposed*

31. **Other Items (Synod Office Property)**

32. Bishop David mentioned that a developer has approached with interest in buying the Synod Office and Bishop's Court properties. This is being considered, along with alternate locations for the Synod Office. He also discussed Bishop's Court and its use as an out-of-the-cold shelter during winter 2019: volunteers ran the shelter and two groups of volunteers cleaned the residence from top-to-bottom once it ceased to be used as a shelter. Resulting from the Diocese's eagerness to provide shelter, the Bishop was invited to a forum and review on homelessness at both the municipal and provincial levels. Bishop David also mentioned various initiatives taking place across the province to address homelessness and provide low-income housing, including initiatives at the Cathedral, Christ Church (Parish) Church, and Stone Church, among others. The Bishop requested that thanks be noted in the minutes to all involved in these ventures.

33. **Next Meeting**

34. The next Diocesan Council meeting is Saturday, September 21st, 2019, with location to be announced.

35. **Adjournment**

36. The Bishop asked for a motion to Adjourn.

*MOTION 14: Tom Stradwick*

***Moved that this meeting of Diocesan Council be adjourned.***

37. The Bishop closed the meeting with prayer at **1437**, remembering especially the Parish of Kingston and its 230th anniversary, and council members and invited guests said "the Grace" together.

Respectfully submitted,

The Right Rev'd David Edwards  
Bishop and Chair

The Ven Cathy Laskey  
Secretary of Synod

William Ross  
Recording Secretary